

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 3419

STADIS//////////

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: ETEL, SOPN, PFOR, PL, US
SUBJ: RFE-GOP COMPLAINT

REF: STATE 102821

1. THE DCM SAW DEPARTMENT III DIRECTOR SZEWCZYK TODAY, APRIL 24, AND READ THE TEXT OF THE "NON-PAPER" TRANSMITTED IN REF. SZEWCZYK WAS ALSO GIVEN A COPY OF THE PAPER.

2. SZEWCZYK IMMEDIATELY HOMED IN ON THE REPEATED REFERENCES TO THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING. HE SAID THE GOP'S FEBRUARY 20 COMPLAINT WAS DIRECTED TO THE US GOVERNMENT, NOT TO BIB. HE ASKED, THEREFORE, WHETHER THE RESPONSE CONVEYED BY THE DCM REPRESENTED AN OFFICIAL USG REPLY TO THE POLISH DEMARCHE. THE DCM RESPONDED BY SPELLING OUT THE LEGAL ARRANGEMENT GOVERNING RFE/RL AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD WITH REGARD TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE CONGRESS. SZEWCZYK DID NOT PRESS THE POINT FURTHER. (COMMENT: SZEWCZYK MAY RETURN TO THIS MATTER LATER, AND WE ASSUME WE
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WOULD BE CORRECT IN ASSURING HIM THAT BIB'S RESPONSE IS ALSO A USG RESPONSE. END COMMENT). SZEWCZYK THEN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR DETAILED ANSWER AND GRATIFICATION THAT ON SOME POINTS THE BOARD HAD SEEN SOME POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE POLES' UNHAPPINESS OVER THE COMMENTARIES IN QUESTION. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE

"NON-PAPER" IN DETAIL BEFORE MAKING ANY FURTHER COMMENTS.

3. THE DCM THEN SAID HE HOPED THE POLISH AUTHORITIES WOULD INTERPRET OUR REPLY AS AN EARNEST OF OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE RADIOS AS WELL US OTHER SUBJECTS. HE SAID WE WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE SERIOUSLY ANY POLISH COMPLAINTS ABOUT ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF RFE/RL'S GUIDELINES, (A COPY OF THE GUIDELINES WAS HANDED TO SZEWCZYK). SIMILARLY, THE DCM CONTINUED, WE WOULD FEEL FREE TO DRAW THE MFA'S ATTENTION TO INACCURATE OR UNFAIR TREATMENT OF THE US W THE POLISH PRESS. IN THAT REGARD, ALTHOUGH HE WAS UNDER NO INSTRUCTIONS TO DO SO, THE DCM SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SZEWCZYK COPIES OF SOME RECENT POLISH NEWSPAPER COMMENTARIES ON INTERNAL US MATTERS, COMMENTARIES WHICH HE ASSUMED WERE ECHOED, TO SOME EXTENT AT LEAST IN POLISH SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS BEAMED TO THE WEST. (COMMENT: THE 15 TO 20 CLIPPINGS HANDED OVER AT THIS POINT REPRESENTED SOME OF THE MORE SCURRILOUS AND PROPAGANDISTIC PIECES THAT APPEARED IN RECENT WEEKS. END COMMENT). THE DCM CONCLUDED BY REFERRING TO THE RECENT PROPAGANDA BARRAGE MOUNTED BY THE POLISH AUTHORITIES AGAINST THE NEUTRON "BOMB".

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4. ADDRESSING FIRST THE "BOMB", SZEWCZYK SAID WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE DEEP EMOTIONS THIS SUBJECT AROUSES AMONG POLES. THE DCM SAID WE WERE FULLY AWARE OF THESE EMOTIONS, WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HIMSELF HAD ACKNOWLEDGED DURING HIS VISIT IN DECEMBER. OUR COMPLAINTS WERE RATHER ADDRESSED TO THE WAY POLISH AUTHORITIES PLAYED UPON THESE EMOTIONS AND TO THE LACK OF ANY RECOGNITION IN THE POLISH PRESS THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONS IN AN ARMAMENTS RACE IS A TWO-WAY PROPOSITION. TURNING TO THE MORE GENERAL SUBJECT OF POLISH PRESS COVERAGE OF THE US, SZEWCZYK ASKED WHY WE DO NOT TAKE OUR COMPLAINTS DIRECTLY TO THE POLISH MEDIA. THE DCM REPLIED THAT INDEED WE DO AND THAT OFTEN WE GET A SYMPATHETIC HEARING, BUT HE DOUBTED SZEWCZYK WANTED TO ENGAGE IN A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH POLISH JOURNALISTS WORK. SZEWCZYK ACKNOWLEDGED, IN EFFECT, THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO GO INTO THIS SUBJECT.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE BIB PAPER WAS A MOST
APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE POLISH COMPLAINT. OUR
GUESS IS THAT WE WILL HEAR NOTHING MORE ABOUT THE
SPECIFIC BROADCASTS AT QUESTION, ALTHOUGH THE POLES
MIGHT WELL SEIZE ON A POINT OR TWO IN THE BIB
PAPER TO USE IN FUTURE DEMARCHES . END COMMENT.

SCHAUFEELE

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